



# **IGAD REGIONAL FORESTRY POLICY AND STRATEGY**

**MARCH 2020**

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## CONTENT

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|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>CONTENT</b> .....   | <b>I</b>                            |
| <b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....   | <b>II</b>                           |
| <b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....  | <b>II</b>                           |
| <b>LIST OF ABBREVIATION</b> .....  | <b>IV</b>                           |
| <b>DEFINITIONS OF TERMS</b> .....  | <b>5</b>                            |
| <b>FOREWARD</b> .....  | <b>9</b>                            |
| <b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....   | <b>11</b>                           |
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....   | <b>12</b>                           |
| <b>CHAPTER 1.0: BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT</b> .....  | <b>19</b>                           |
| 1.1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT .....   | 19                                  |
| 1.2. IGAD REGION .....   | 20                                  |
| 1.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC .....   | 21                                  |
| 1.4 FOREST STATUS IN THE REGION .....  | 22                                  |
| 1.5 FOREST DIVERSITY AND CLASSIFICATION .....  | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> |
| 1.6 THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF FOREST IN THE REGION .....  | 24                                  |
| 1.6.1 Contribution to livelihoods .....  | 24                                  |
| 1.6.2 Contribution to the National Economy (GDP) .....   | 25                                  |
| 1.6.3 Contribution to employment .....   | 25                                  |
| 1.6.4 Contribution of forests to other sectors (Agriculture, Tourism, Hydrology,<br>Recreation, and manufacturing) ..... | 25                                  |
| 1.6.5 Contribution of forestry to adaptation, mitigation and resilience building to climate<br>change                    | 26                                  |
| 1.6.6. Contribution to construction and wood industry sector .....   | 26                                  |
| 1.6.7 Contribution to energy .....   | 26                                  |
| 1.6.8 Contribution to sustainable development goals (SDGs).....  | 26                                  |
| 1.7 CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES DRIVING FOREST DECLINE.....   | 27                                  |
| 1.9 JUSTIFICATION AND RATIONALE .....  | 29                                  |
| 1.10 THE POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS .....  | 31                                  |
| 2.1 POLICY VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES .....  | 33                                  |
| 2.2 OVERALL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES .....  | 33                                  |

---

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 2.3 THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....  | 33                                      |
| <b>CHAPTER 3.0 PRIORITY ISSUES AND POLICY COMMITMENTS .....</b>                     | <b>36</b>                               |
| 3.1 GOVERNANCE, POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS .....                    | 36                                      |
| 3.2. AFFORESTATION/REFORESTATION AND REDUCTION OF FOREST<br>DEGRADATION .....       | 36                                      |
| 3.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT .....                          | 37                                      |
| 3.4 AWARENESS CREATION, COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE<br>MANAGEMENT .....             | 38                                      |
| 3.5 EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES .....                     | 39                                      |
| 3.6 GENDER AND EQUITY .....   | 40                                      |
| 3.7 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION .....   | 40                                      |
| <b>4.1 STRATEGIC GOAL.....</b>  | <b>41</b>                               |
| <b>4.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES .....</b>   | <b>41</b>                               |
| 4.2.1 GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONS ISSUES .....                              | 42                                      |
| 4.2.2 CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT .....                            | 43                                      |
| 4.2.3 PUBLIC AWARENESS, INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND<br>KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ..... | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>     |
| 4.2.4 RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT .....                            | <b>Error!<br/>Bookmark not defined.</b> |
| 4.2.5 GENDER AND EQUITY .....   | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>     |
| 4.2.6 FUNDING ISSUES .....  | 48                                      |
| <b>5.0. IGAD REGIONAL POLICY IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>                               | <b>49</b>                               |
| <b>5.1 FORESTRY COORDINATION WITHIN THE IGAD .....</b>                              | <b>49</b>                               |
| <b>6.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....</b>   | <b>53</b>                               |

## LIST OF FIGURES

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|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Figure 1.1: The Schematic Map of IGAD Region .....      | 22                                  |
| Figure 2.1: Decline in forest cover in IGAD states..... | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> |

## LIST OF TABLES

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|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Table 2.1: Area under forest and other woodland in IGAD region | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> |
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## LIST OF ABBREVIATION

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|       |   |
|-------|---|
| ASALs | Arid and Semi-Arid Land                                 |
| CBO   | Community-Based Organization                            |
| EIA   | Environmental Impact Assessment                         |
| FAO   | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| GDP   | Gross Domestic Product                                  |
| IGAD  | Inter-Governmental Authority on Development             |
| IGADD | Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development  |
| LDC   | Least Developed Countries                               |
| M&E   | Monitoring and Evaluation                               |
| MEAs  | Multilateral Environmental Agreements                   |
| NGO   | Non-Governmental Organization                           |
| SEA   | Strategic Environmental Assessment                      |
| SFM   | Sustainable Forest Management                           |
| UN    | United Nations  |
| UNEP  | United Nations Environment Programme                    |

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## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

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|                               |   |
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| Afforestation                 | Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was not classified as forest.  |
| Agroforestry                  | A collective name for land-use systems and technologies where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.) are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals, in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence.  |
| Assisted natural regeneration | A method for enhancing the establishment of secondary forest from degraded grassland and shrub vegetation by protecting and nurturing the mother trees and their wildlings inherently present in the area. ANR aims to accelerate, rather than replace, natural successional processes by removing or reducing barriers to natural forest regeneration such as soil degradation, competition with weedy species, and recurring disturbances (e.g., fire, grazing, and wood harvesting). In addition to protection efforts, new trees are planted when needed or wanted. |
| Degradation                   | Any combination of loss of soil fertility, absence of forest cover, lack of natural function, soil compaction, and salinization that either impedes or retards unassisted forest recovery through secondary succession.   |
| Degraded                      | Former forest land severely damaged by the excessive harvesting of wood and non-wood forest products, poor management, repeated fire, grazing, or other disturbances or land uses that damage soil vegetation to a degree that inhibits or severely delays the re-establishment of forest after abandonment.  |
| Degraded forest               | Forest that delivers a reduced supply of goods and services from a given site and maintains only limited biological diversity. It has lost the structure, function, species with the natural forest type expected at that site, composition and/or productivity normally associated.  |
| Ecological restoration        | Process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.  |

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| Afforestation                          | Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was not classified as forest.   |
| Enrichment planting                    | The planting of desired tree species in a modified natural forest or secondary forest or woodland with the objective of creating a high forest dominated by desirable (i.e. local and/or high-value) species.                        |
| Forest                                 | Any ecosystem containing trees and which is so defined by national policy or legislation and includes the concepts of 'forest land', 'forest product' and 'forest resource'.   |
| Forest land                            | Any land covered by trees or which is designated in any legislation, or national or sub-national forest plan, or land-use plan as forest land or as land for afforestation or reforestation.   |
| Forest product                         | Any tangible forest resource that is harvested or otherwise removed from its natural state for human use and includes products manufactured or derived from a forest resource.   |
| Forest resource                        | Anything or benefit derived from a forest, of actual or potential use to humanity, including forest genetic resource and energy.   |
| Forestry                               | Art, science and practice of managing trees and forests on, but not limited to, forest land  |
| Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) | Process that brings people together to identify, negotiate and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses |
| Forest degradation                     | Gradual process through which forest's biomass, species composition and other associated matters of the forest ecosystem changed and/or weakened.  |
| Forest governance                      | The modus operandi by which officials and institutions acquire and exercise authority in the management of forestry resources to sustain and improve the welfare and quality of life of current and future generation.               |
| Forest Institutions                    | Are all national and regional ministries, agencies and other governmental bodies which have an involvement in the planning and implementation of forest policies, plans and programmes.  |

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| Afforestation                                  | Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was not classified as forest.   |
| Forest law compliance                          | Relates to the extent to which illegal operations are takes place in a forest.   |
| Gender and equity                              | Fairness in the treatment of both men and women in the distribution and management of forests and forest products  |
| Gender mainstreaming                           | Change unequal social-cultural practices so as to make them more responsive to gender and to ensure that women and men benefit equally   |
| Good governance                                | Is characterized by predictable, open and informed policymaking based on transparent processes, a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos, an executive arm of government accountable for its actions, and a strong civil society participating in decisions related to forest-sector management and in other public affairs. |
| Land degradation                               | “Persistent decline” in the provision of goods and services that an ecosystem provides, including biological and water related goods and services as well as land-related social and economic goods and services.  |
| Natural regeneration                           | Renewal of trees by self-sown seeds or natural vegetative means.   |
| Reforestation                                  | Re-establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land classified as forest.  |
| Rehabilitation                                 | A management strategy applied on degraded forest land that aims at restoring the capacity of a forest to produce products and services.  |
| Restoration                                    | Any intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem from a degraded state.   |
| Sustainable Forest Management                  | Maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations.  |
| Sustainable management or resource utilization | Present use of a resource, which does not compromise the right to use the same resource by future generations  |
| Timber   | Includes a tree or any part of a tree which has fallen or been felled, and all wood, whether or not sawn, split, hewn or otherwise cut up or fashioned, but does not include firewood  |

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|----------------------------------|--|
| Afforestation                    | Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was not classified as forest.   |
| Tree                             | A perennial woody plant growing to a considerable height and size, with a self-supporting main stem and usually developing branches at some distance from the ground |
| Vulnerable tree species or zones | A tree species that may or is likely to become endangered if adverse or detrimental factors are not eliminated.  |

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## **FOREWARD**

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It gives me great pleasure to introduce and share with you the new IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. The IGAD forest sector is undergoing various challenges which include: deteriorating state of forestry, receding natural forest cover and ecological services, coupled with increasing pressure on forest land and demand on forest products; limited management capacity and weak forest institutions, climate change, recurrent droughts and dry spells, food insecurity, rising population leading to conflicts, migration, unemployment and widespread poverty.

This Forestry Policy and Strategy provides opportunities for IGAD Member States to assess and review their national forest policies and strategies, enhancing implementation capacities and sustainable management of the national and trans-boundary forest resources. The outcomes of this strategy will enable member countries to harmonize and aligning national efforts and ensure linkages with all the relevant sectors.

The policy vision is that: By 2040 IGAD region Forests are protected, sustainably used, restored and their services recognized and valued by all. The vision is backed the mission of halting deforestation and forest degradation and achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of people of the IGAD region through enhanced cooperation, coordination and political commitment at all levels.

The overall objective of this policy is to manage forest and tree resources and forestlands to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations.

This document will complement the existing national policies, Regional IGAD frameworks such as such as the IGAD Regional Environment Policy, IGAD Regional Environmental Impact Assessment Policy Framework and Protocol, the IGAD Regional Climate Change Strategy, the IGAD Regional Environmental and Resources Management Strategy; IGAD Regional Water Resource Policy, IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy, IGAD Regional Biodiversity Protocol; the African Union Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030); and many international and regional policies and frameworks. There are also treaties and conventions that have been adopted and ratified by IGAD Member States whose implementation is to be undertaken by IGAD.

This IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy document appeals to new dynamics and takes into account new initiatives and frameworks such as the New IGAD Treaty, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its 10-Years Implementation Plan, and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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I am highly encouraged by this development and I am confident that the Member States and the Development Partners will find this new IGAD Regional Policy and Strategy in setting their forestry priorities for the IGAD region. In preparing the Strategy, IGAD embraced and employed high values and principles like ownership, participation, inclusiveness and partnership with stakeholders.

The IGAD Secretariat will have the role of facilitating, coordinating and harmonizing forest policies, strategies, programs and coordination and mobilization of resources to facilitate implementation of the policy. It is clear that enhanced coordination will be critical for effective implementation of the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy .

Finally, the document holds IGAD accountable in terms of tracking progress made in the implementation of the policy and strategy. A monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be developed in line with IGAD overall M&E Framework, to guide the implementation of the policy. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism will allow for the observation and assessment of progress made in implementing the Forestry Policy . Thus, results will be guaranteed if performance is assessed continuously against the objectives, impact and performance indicators harmonized at regional level. Member States will monitor progress at national level and IGAD shall monitor and report progress at regional level.

While IGAD recognizes the enormity of the challenges it will face in implementing the Strategy, IGAD will rather face the challenges boldly and with her desire and determination to succeed and in partnership with all stakeholders.

**IGAD Executive Secretary**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The IGAD Secretariat recognizes the valuable support it has received from all those who have contributed to the formulation process of this Policy and Strategy. In particular, we thankfully acknowledge both the financial and technical support received from FAO and World Bank.

The development of an IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy was prepared under the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP/SFE/3605) between IGAD and FAO. We are also grateful to all those participants from IGAD Member States and IGAD Development Partners who attended the consultative national workshops that were held during the preparation, review and finalization of the policy and strategy documents.

These workshops enabled IGAD to get a wider representation of views, inputs and important insights of the stakeholders' expectations from this policy and strategy. Further, the workshops provided IGAD with diverse range of experiences, valuable information and an in-depth understanding of IGAD, which are reflected in both documents.

Gratitude to participants who attended the national workshops that led to the ownership of the process. A review IGAD workshop was held in August 2019 with the aim of validating, review structure and flow of the draft IGAD Forestry Policy and strategy to ensure that it was in line with the internal process of the IGAD Secretariat and its Member States.

Final stakeholders' validation workshop was held in November 2019 to validate the revised draft IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. The workshop gave the participants an opportunity to go through the policy document and agree on the most suitable strategy for the document. The outcome from this workshop was the final IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy.

We are grateful to the experts from the IGAD Member States, Secretariat and IGAD Specialized Institutions for their contributions in the preparation process of the Policy, Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Lastly, we express our gratitude to the IGAD and FAO Technical Teams.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The IGAD region stretches over an area of 5.2 million km<sup>2</sup> representing approximately 8 % of the world's area, with a population of 250 million and covering forests and woodlands of total surface area of nearly 166 million hectares. Key challenges facing IGAD forest sector include: deteriorating state of forestry, receding natural forest cover and ecological services, coupled with increasing pressure on forest land and demand on forest products; limited management capacity and weak forest institutions, climate change, recurrent droughts and dry spells, food insecurity, rising population leading to conflicts, migration, unemployment and widespread poverty.

These challenges have been recognized by Member States. Furthermore, forest governance and management in the region have not resulted in significant improvement in conservation or reversing the trend of deforestation and forests degradation in the region.

The IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy will address these challenges. This policy will complement the existing national policies, regional, continental and global frameworks such as the IGAD Regional Environment Policy, IGAD Regional Environmental Impact Assessment Policy Framework and Protocol, the IGAD Regional Climate Change Strategy, the IGAD Regional Environmental and Resources Management Strategy; IGAD Regional Water Resource Policy, IGAD Biodiversity Policy and Protocol; and various international and regional policies and frameworks; and the African Union Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030) and AU Agenda 2063. The Forestry Policy and Strategy Framework will complement the treaties and conventions that have been adopted and ratified by IGAD Member States, such as the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Chapter 1** summarizes the background of IGAD forest issues, ecosystems, and socio-economic characteristics of the IGAD Region. IGAD region possesses diverse ecosystems and agro-ecological zones at different altitudes with approximately 70 percent of the land area in the region made up of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), and the rest of the region presenting great variety of climates and landscapes including cool highlands, swamp areas, tropical rain forests and other features typical of an equatorial region. The IGAD region is prone to recurrent droughts and dry spells, making it one of the most vulnerable regions in the African continent.

Socio-economic characteristics of the IGAD region indicates that agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the countries contributing over 25 per cent of GDP and employing over three quarters of the population. The rising population, conflicts, migration and unemployment are major concerns to agricultural productivity. Poverty is widespread in the region, in particular the

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rural populations, of which approximately 30 percent is below the basic needs of poverty line with variability among the countries.

In terms of Importance of Forest sector in the region, there is a general recognition by Member States that forests and woodlands are central to the three pillars of sustainable development - the economic, social and the environmental - and that the sector is not being given adequate priority. Forest and woodlands sector provide energy, forest and tree products, employment, livelihoods support, government revenues, business opportunities, environmental functions and services, and maintaining ecological integrity.

The role and contribution of forests to the IGAD region is very significant. It contributes to GDPs of the various Member States, to livelihoods and income for individual families living closer to the forests, to employment, to mitigation of climate change and provision of goods and services ranging from fuel wood for energy, timbers and poles for construction, medicine and foods, soil erosion protection, biodiversity and water catchment conservation and recreational opportunities.

Another significant contribution of the forest sector to the economy is through the range of ecological services and biodiversity values that the forests provide that support other sectors, principally agriculture, livestock production, industry, water, energy, health, wildlife, and tourism. Although these services and values are not easily quantified, they are recognized as integral to agricultural productivity, climate regulation, soil and water conservation and nutrient recycling. Forests are also reservoirs of the countries water resources and biodiversity, including unique genetic resources (plant and animal species) and diverse ecosystems.

Much of the tourism in the IGAD region especially based on nature-based and forests, woodlands and their constituent wildlife and natural scenic beauty are important attractions. Forests also contribute to maintenance of the hydrological cycle thereby supporting the production of hydroelectric power, boosting the manufacturing sector. Forests are a source of raw materials for the manufacturing sector (e.g. honey, fruits, medicines and aromatic products).

Thus, forest contribution to IGAD region is also in terms of value addition to the various sectors in Member States economies i.e. agriculture, construction, forestry and logging, fishing, mining and quarrying, food manufacturing, textile, clothing, leather and footwear; wood, cork and furniture; electricity and water supply; and paper, printing and publishing.

Sustainable management of forests is vital to achievement of AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Forests play a direct or indirect role in most of the SDGs through their multiple social, economic and environmental functions especially in terms of

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reducing poverty, protecting the environment and increasing food security i.e. SDG 2-End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture, SDG 6-Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for all, SDG 15- Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss. While SFM is explicitly the focus of SDG 15, forests contribute to many other of the goals on poverty alleviation, food and hunger, water, energy, climate change, etc. The forest policies and strategies thus have a direct bearing on the Global Forests Goals (GFG) and SDGs.

It is in this context that this policy provides opportunities for IGAD Member States to assess and review their national forest policies and strategies, enhancing implementation capacities and sustainable management of the national and trans-boundary forest resources. The outcomes of the overall project will enable member countries to have harmonized and aligned national efforts and ensuring linkages with all the relevant sectors.

Despite the fact that IGAD has developed regional policies in many sectors related to agriculture and the environment, IGAD does not have a Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. It is against this background, that in 2017, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) requested technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to provide support towards formulating a regional Forestry Policy and Strategy, as a framework to guide the development of the forestry sector within its Member States. FAO accepted the request and developed a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP/SFE/3605) on the Development of an IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy.

The process by which the policy has been prepared is detailed in this Chapter. National consultants for each Member State carried out relevant desk reviews noting status of forest issues, gaps, opportunities and challenges in respective country; consultations and in-depth interviews were conducted with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the forest sector. National consultants prepared national forestry status reports that were shared and validated with all stakeholders at national level ensuring ownership. The in-depth reports are background documents provided evidence of the level of consultation and detailed rationale for the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy.

National Forest Status and workshop reports were used as background information and synthesized as regional background report on status of forest in the IGAD region putting views of different stakeholders in the forest sector.

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**Chapter 2** presents policy vision, mission, overall and specific objectives and guiding principles of the IGAD Forestry Policy.

**Policy Vision:** By 2040 IGAD region Forests are protected, sustainably used and their services are recognized and valued by all.

**Policy Mission:** To halt deforestation and forest degradation and achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of people of the IGAD region through enhanced cooperation, coordination and political commitment at all levels.

The overall objective of this policy is to manage forest and tree resources and forest lands to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations.

Specific objectives are to:

- Promote forest governance including supportive policies, legislations and institutional frameworks for sustainable forest management in IGAD region;
- Enhance capacity for sustainable forest management;
- Establish a system for generation, dissemination and exchange of forestry information and best practices for Sustainable Forest Management;
- Increase contributions from forestry to poverty alleviation, food security and climate change, as well as other regional developmental priorities;
- Promote forest research and technology development; and
- Promote gender equity and the involvement of youth and disadvantaged groups in Sustainable Forest Management.

The IGAD Regional Forestry Policy is developed within the framework of Member States forest sector and national development frameworks, regional IGAD development frameworks, international guidelines and conventions, which have been ratified by Member States including the global conventions on forests, non-legal binding instruments on all types of forests and the regional treaties, related International Conventions and Agreements, the UN 2030 and African Union Sustainable Development Goals and the AU Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030).

The guiding principles of the Policy therefore incorporate the following: Sustainable development, livelihoods enhancement, public participation and awareness, gender and equity, inter-sectorial collaboration, regional and international co-operation, subsidiarity, governance and law enforcement, research, education and knowledge, private sector involvement, capacity building, resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, and regional policy commitment.

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**Chapter 3** presents key priority issues, policy statements, policy drivers and policy actions.

- **Governance, Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks:** The capacity for forest governance including supportive policies, legislations and institutional frameworks for sustainable forest management shall be promoted by Member States in the IGAD region.
- **Reforestation and Reduced Degradation:** Member shall promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, conserve forest ecosystems and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation in the IGAD region.
- **Economic, Social and Cultural issues:** Member States shall enhance access by households, small-scale forest owners and forest dependent local and indigenous communities to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from Sustainable Forest Management Actions.
- **Awareness Creation, Communication and Knowledge Management:** Members states shall increase knowledge and awareness in the public and among the stakeholders about the vital ecological functions and important social, cultural and economic benefits of sustainable forest management.
- **Education and Research Issues:** Members states shall develop and strengthen a multidisciplinary forest research and education system based on SFM to meet economic, social and environmental challenges.
- **Gender and equity:** Members states shall promote gender equity and the involvement of youth and disadvantaged groups in sustainable forest management.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Members states shall enhance capacity development for resource mobilization from domestic, global mechanisms, partners and innovative sources.

**Chapter 4** presents the IGAD Policy Strategy specifying strategic objectives, strategic direction, output and activities along the priority areas discussed above.

For each key priority area, a strategic objective is set corresponding to the priority area. This is followed by strategic Direction and strategic actions or outputs. The Chapter presents strategic objectives and directions as follows:

**Strategic Objective 1:** To Promote forest governance including supportive policies, legislations and institutional frameworks for sustainable forest management in IGAD region.

*Strategic Direction:* Member States shall institute transparency in forest governance, harmonize forest policies and legislations and strengthen public and private forest institutions for effective SFM.

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**Strategic Objective 2:** To enhance capacities of local communities and other stakeholder for sustainable forest management

*Strategic Direction:* Develop systems and incentive packages to support public, private sector and community investment in sustainable management of existing forests and reforestation and forest plantation development in degraded forest areas and private/community lands.

**Strategic Objective 3:** To promote education and public awareness and knowledge management and best practices for Sustainable Forest Management

*Strategic Direction:* Increase Public Education and Create Awareness on the Value and Multiple Uses and benefits of Forests. Strategic direction will include initiating steps to intensify public education on the need for forest information and knowledge management and links between forest resources, over-exploitation, environmental degradation, and community poverty.

**Strategic Objective 4:** To Promote forest research and technology development

*Strategic Direction:* Support Research and Development to enhance efficiency in SFM and to meet economic, social and environmental challenges in the sector. This will include promotion of research and introduction of new technologies in the sector, supporting the uptake, dissemination of information of the research results built on indigenous and scientific knowledge to improve on the management of forest resources; and updating infrastructure for research, education and training at all levels of management in the forest and savannah ecosystems.

**Strategic Objective 5:** To promote gender mainstreaming in SFM to ensure that women and men benefit equally.

*Strategic Direction:* Gender is mainstreamed in forest management, development and implementation since women and men have differences in knowledge of, access, use of and conservation of forest.

**Strategic objective 6:** Increase the mobilization of new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

*Strategic Direction:* Resources mobilized from a mix of funding sources including at the national, regional and international levels.

Activities along the priority areas discussed above are detailed in this Chapter.

**Chapter 5** addresses IGAD Regional Policy Implementation arrangements.

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The Implementation Plan will designate the roles and responsibility of all parties, including a set of performance indicators and measures to assess progress towards the effective conservation and management of forest resources in the IGAD Region. This will be followed by development and update of Member States' respective policy and legal frameworks in line with the regional Forestry Policy and Strategy.

The IGAD Secretariat will have the role of facilitating, coordinating and implementation of the regional forest policies, strategies, programs and coordination and mobilization of resources to facilitate implementation of the policy. It is clear that enhanced coordination will be critical for effective implementation of the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. The establishment and convening of regular regional Technical and Ministerial meetings is key to the implementation of the policy and strategy.

Finally, **Chapter 6** presents a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism of the policy and strategy. A monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be developed in line with IGAD overall M&E Framework, to guide the implementation of the policy. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism will allow for the observation and assessment of progress made in implementing the Forestry Policy. Thus, results will be guaranteed if performance is assessed continuously against the objectives, impact and performance indicators harmonized at regional level. Member States will monitor progress at national level and IGAD will monitor and report progress at regional level.

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## CHAPTER 1

### BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT

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#### 1.1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa was created in 1996 to supersede the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD). IGADD was established in 1986 to co-ordinate the efforts of the Member States in combating desertification and promoting efforts to mitigate the effects of drought and desertification. Thereafter, at an extra-ordinary Summit held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1995, the Heads of State and Government resolved to re-vitalize the Authority and to expand its mandate to cover political as well as economic issues. Consequently, the Authority was re-named the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in 1996 and the Agreement Establishing IGAD was amended accordingly. The new Agreement gave IGAD an expanded mandate that includes inter alia, the following areas of cooperation among the Member States:

- Agriculture and Environment
- Economic cooperation and integration and social development; and
- Peace and security and Humanitarian Affairs

Article 13A of the Agreement Establishing IGAD provides the following as the main cooperation areas in the above three priority sectors:

- Enhancing cooperation and coordinating their macro-economic policies;
- Promoting sustainable agriculture development and food security;
- Conserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment;
- Ensuring the prudent and rational utilization of natural resources;
- Cooperating in increased sustainable utilization and development of energy resources in the region, and in the gradual harmonization of their national energy policies and energy development plans; and
- Cooperating in the gradual harmonization of their national policies in scientific and technological research and development, transfer of technology, and their policies on capacity building in science and technology in the region.

The overall vision of IGAD is to become a pioneer regional organization for achieving peace, prosperity and regional integration in the IGAD region. Furthermore, its mandate seeks to: assist and complement the efforts of the Member States through an increased cooperation; achieve food

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security and environmental protection; promote and maintain peace security, humanitarian affairs, economic cooperation and integration.

Among others, the objectives of IGAD are to promote collective development strategies and gradually harmonize macro-economic policies and programs in the social, technological and scientific fields, harmonize policies with regard to trade, customs, transport, communications, agriculture, and natural resources, and promote free movement of goods, services, and people within the region, achieve regional food security, as well as encourage and assist efforts to collectively combat drought and other natural and man-made disasters and their natural consequences and initiate and promote programs and projects to achieve regional food security and sustainable development of natural resources and environmental protection.

## **1.2. IGAD REGION**

The IGAD region lies between 21° North latitude and 11° South latitude, 23° East longitude and 51° East longitude, stretches over an area of 5.12 million km<sup>2</sup> (512 Million Ha) with a population of over 250 million people characterized by high natural population growth rate. The region comprises the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda (Fig. 1). Sudan, with the land area of 1.87 million km<sup>2</sup> (240 million ha), is one of the largest countries in Africa. The region has about 6,960 Km of coastline with the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Tadjourah and the Red Sea.

The IGAD region is a relatively dry area strongly influenced by the Sahara Desert. Desert covers more than 1 million km<sup>2</sup> (100 million ha) including all of the northern Sudan where the climate is characterized by high temperatures and low precipitation (less than 200 mm).

Some 70 percent of the region including Somalia, parts of Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan, Djibouti and along the coast of Eritrea, is made up of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), with annual rainfall ranging between 150 and 750 mm. The rest of the region has a great variety of climates and landscapes including cool highlands, swamp areas, tropical rain forests and other features typical of an equatorial region. Most of Ethiopia and the mountains of Kenya have montane climates with higher rainfall and lower temperatures. Uganda and South Sudan is mostly characterized by a tropical climate with mild temperatures and a very short dry season, except in the north where the Karamoja area experiences arid and semi-arid conditions. The rest of Kenya and Uganda have typical tropical climates with a long dry season.

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### **1.2.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTIC OF THE IGAD REGION**

In the past three decades, the region has suffered from many social problems. There have been several civil wars in the region with a tremendous normalization since recent years. The effects of war, combined with the severe climate, have placed increased pressure on the land and have had a heavy impact through deforestation as a result of cutting and clearing forests to finance the wars and ensuring household energy security, which is mostly biomass based.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the countries in the region. The agriculture sector employs over three quarters of the population of the region and contributes to over 25 percent of the GDP (FAOSTAT). Food production in the region is rain fed dependent and subjected to drought, uneven and erratic rainfall. This is further compounded by low soil productivity, land degradation and limited use of appropriate technologies. The rising population in this region, conflicts, migration and unemployment are major concerns to agricultural productivity.

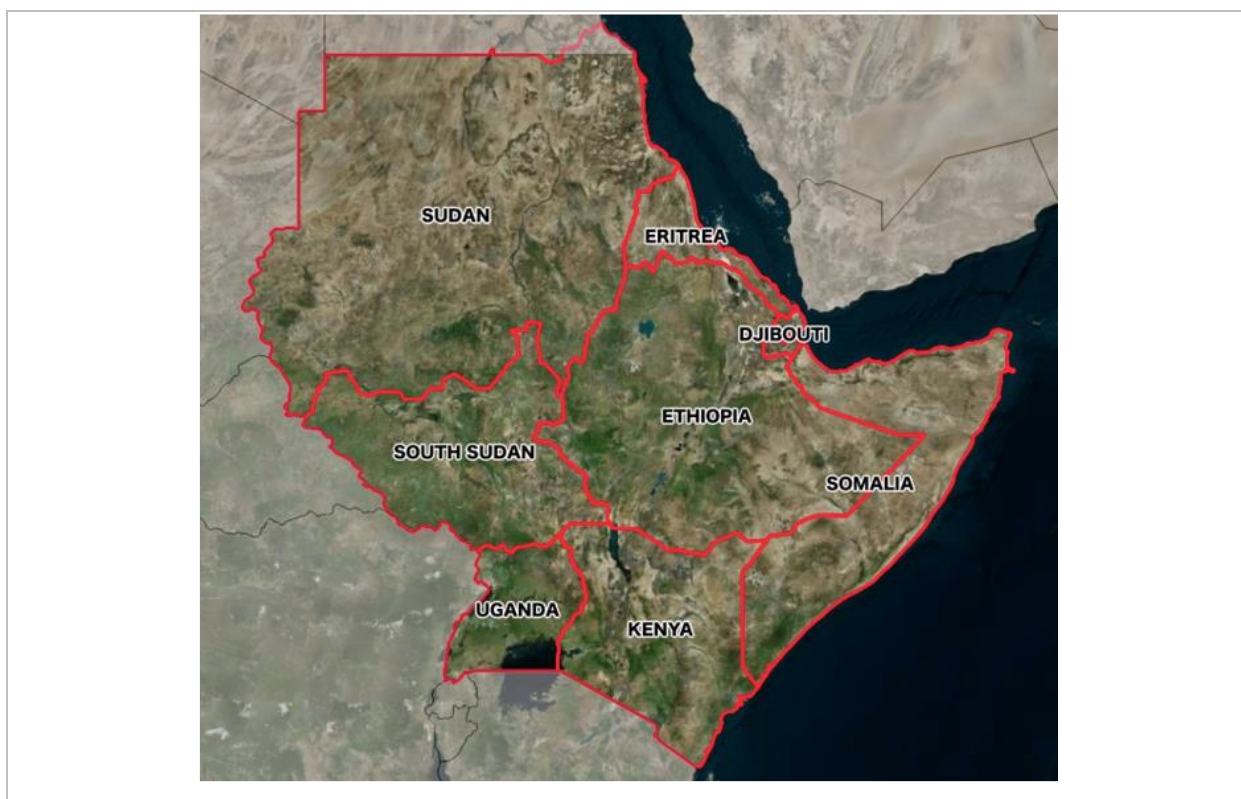
Despite the importance of agriculture sector, the region remains in a precarious food security situation and has in fact had a 20 percent increase in the absolute number of hungry and still has the greatest number of undernourished people on the continent. An estimated 27 million people – or 24% of the total food insecure people in the world– lived in seven of the eight countries in the IGAD region, according to a new report released by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1234725/>. Though some countries in the region have benefited from economic growth at the national level, the growth is lagging behind in rural areas where over 80% of the population lives.

Poverty is widespread in the region, in particular the rural populations, of which approximately 30 percent is below the basic needs poverty line. Poverty levels<sup>1</sup> range from 20% to 69%. One of the main challenges in maximizing the agricultural potential of this region is the high degree of variability in rainfall patterns in terms of both space and time, and the level of education of the farmers of the region.

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<sup>1</sup>Defined by the World Bank as the percentage of people living on under \$1.90 per day

Figure 0: The Schematic Map of IGAD Region<sup>2</sup>



#### 1.4 FOREST STATUS, DIVERSITY AND CLASSIFICATION IN THE REGION

In the IGAD region, forests and woodlands cover a total surface area of nearly 166.7 million hectares. These include 53.2 million ha of primary forests and 113.4 million ha of woodlands, secondary forest plantations and important agroforestry lands (FAO 2015). The forest cover of the IGAD member countries ranges between 7 and 30%. The region has remarkably wide variety of forests that support a wealth of biological diversity and endemism among plants, birds and mammals. The major forest types in the region include tropical moist evergreen and moist semi deciduous forests plantations, miombo woodlands (wet and dry miombo), savannah, bamboo, acacia woodlands and mangroves (FAO 2002<sup>3</sup>). In each of the states, the forests are classified based on altitude, climatic and soil conditions, and various human interactions.

In Djibouti, the forests are classified as closed woodland and forest, open woodland and forest. The dense closed forests are mainly found in the hilly areas of Goda and Mabla and are dominated

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<sup>2</sup>Source: Source: [http://igad---rris.biopama.org/IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy](http://igad---rris.biopama.org/IGAD%20Regional%20Biodiversity%20Policy); the border given might not reflect the right political borders.

<sup>3</sup> FAO, 2002:

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by *Juniperus procera* and *Terminalia brownii*. In the lowlands (300-1000 masl) *Acacia* spp are dominant with mangrove forests being found along the littoral.

Based on climate, physiognomy and species composition, the natural forest vegetation of Ethiopia are classified into 12 major and 12 sub-types of vegetation. The major vegetation types are desert and semi-desert scrubland, *Acacia-Commiphora* woodland and bushland, wooded grassland of the western parts of the country, *Combretum-Terminalia* woodland and wooded grassland, dry evergreen Afromontane forest and grassland complex, moist evergreen Afromontane forest, transitional rainforest, ericaceous belt, afro-alpine belt, riverine vegetation, fresh-water lakes, marsh and floodplain vegetation and salt lakes, marsh and pan vegetation.

Three major forest/woodland types are distinguished in Eritrea: highland forests, *Acacia* woodlands and riverine forests. Originally the highland forests of *Juniperus procera* and *Olea africana* would have extended over much of the plateau, but have been largely destroyed or degraded; only remnants now survive. On the lowlands and lower escarpments, *Acacia* woodlands occupy about a quarter of the surface of the country. Riverine forests fringe river systems of the Gash/ Mereb, Setit and Barka in the Lowlands, where Doom palm is an important constituent. These forests are under the greatest threat as they occupy fertile, well-watered and level sites – suited to development for commercial agriculture. However, they are also vital to the lives of the local population. On the coastal plains tree cover becomes increasingly sparse towards the sea. In places mangroves border the coast, the main species being *Avicennia marina*.

The Kenya's forest comprises guinea-congolian rain forest/western plateau, afro-montane forest, coastal forest, dryland forests and stocked forest plantations /planted forests. The Afro-montane forest and natural forest dryland forests cover the largest areas with forest. In Somalia the vegetation consists of evergreen trees of *Juniperus procera* and *Juniperus excelsa* and open shrubs of *Buxus hilderbrandtii*, *Dodonea viscosa* and *Terminalia brownie*; in the central plains, Plants and bushes include *Andropogon kelleri*, *Chrysopogon aucheri*, *Sporobolus ruspolianus*, *Indigofera ruspolii*, *Acacia* spp., *Commiphora* spp., *Cordeauxia edulis*, *Delonix elata*, *Terminalia orbicularis* and *Dobera glabra* etc.; in the southern regions (especially in the floodplain), the vegetation type is mainly low deciduous bushland of *Acacia* spp. which extends to the coastal dunes. Mangrove swamp communities are also situated at the tidal estuaries of the seasonal rivers towards the Indian Ocean coast and Gulf of Aden. They areas include Bushbush, Caanoole and Lag Badanaa. Expansive grasslands are found in Puntland and sparsely covered sand dunes cover a band of several kilometers along the coast. At certain points along the River Juba there are sections of riparian forest.

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In South Sudan, Forests are classified based on the purposes for which they are managed such as the commercial forests, reserved natural forests, community forests, protective forests and recreation forests. The classification of forests in the South Sudan include reserved forests, community and private forests, institution's forests (irrigated schemes) and opened and non-reserved forests of all kinds.

About 26% of Sudan is covered by forests. About 61.6 million ha (152.2 million acres) of Sudan are covered by forests, half of which are dense stands of trees, mostly in the south. Sudan supplies over 80% of the world's needs of gum arabic, extracted from the acacia. Production of roundwood was estimated at 18.8 million cu m (663.6 million cu ft) in 2000, with 88% used as fuel. Timber production, apart from cutting for local village needs, is confined to forests lying within reach of navigable rivers or areas served by roads and railways.

In Uganda's forests are categorized into four broad types: well-stocked Tropical High Forests (THF) (430,888 ha); degraded THF (136,280 ha); woodland (including montane) (1,161,610 ha); and plantation forest (107,608 ha), together covering about 1.84 million ha, approximately 9.1% of the country's land area.

## **1.5 THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF FOREST IN THE REGION**

There is a general recognition in the Member States that forests and woodlands are central to the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environment - and that the sector is not being given adequate priority. Forest and woodlands sector provide energy, forest and tree products, employment, livelihoods support, government revenues, business opportunities, environmental functions and services, and ecological integrity.

### **1.5.1 Contribution to livelihoods**

In the IGAD region, trees and forests play an important role in the livelihoods of communities, especially in poor forest adjacent households. The contributions are in the form of i) subsistence and tradable goods such as wood, fodder, food, medicines, fuel wood, etc; ii) services that support economic activities such as soil and water conservation, employment, commercial opportunities, etc; and iii) services to greater humanity such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and conservation of genetic heritage, beautification and recreation, etc.

Forests dependent rural communities in the IGAD region rely on forests mainly for food, energy and construction material. Firewood for cooking and woods for home construction and agricultural

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tools are essential elements of the livelihoods of rural communities. Such foods are known to have essential nutrients lacking in poor diets staple foods. The communities are known to pick and sell berries, mushrooms, bananas, dates, oil palm, borassous from the forests to local and regional markets. Other major non-wood forest products (NWFPs) sourced from forest reserves include gums, resins, fodder, soil, murrum, asparagus fan, mushroom, honey, stones, fibres, water, medicinal herbs and fruits.

### **1.5.2 Contribution to the National Economy (GDP)**

In general, the information on economic values and the level of production of forest products as well as services in the IGAD region are fragmented. Information where available, indicates that the monetary value of forest contribution varies from 1 to 5% of the GDP in the various members states.

### **1.5.3 Contribution to employment**

In all the IGAD states, forest sector is an important employer especially for the local communities living closer and away from the forest. Forest provides employment in forest industries, forest-based tourism, forest product value chains, wild foods and medicines. Estimates of the actual number of people employed by the forest sectors vary from country to country and the width of the forest. For example in Uganda alone, it is estimated that the sector employs about 1 million people of whom about 100,000 are employed as full-time persons in the formal sector.

### **1.5.4 Contribution of forests to other sectors (Agriculture, Tourism, Hydrology, Recreation, and manufacturing)**

Another significant contribution of the forest sector to the economy is through the range of ecological services and biodiversity values that the forests provide that support other sectors, principally agriculture, livestock production, industry, water, energy, health, wildlife, and tourism. Although these services and values are not easily quantified, they are recognized as integral to agricultural productivity, climate regulation, soil and water conservation and nutrient recycling. Forests are also reservoirs of the countries in water and biodiversity, including unique genetic resources (plant and animal species) and diverse ecosystems. They serve the important functions of protecting biodiversity, water catchments, riverbanks, lakeshores and stabilizing steep slopes. Much of the tourism in the IGAD region especially in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia is nature-based and forests, woodlands and their constituent wildlife and natural scenic beauty are important attractions.

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### **1.5.5 Contribution of forestry to adaptation, mitigation and resilience building to climate change**

Forests are considered as a major means of mitigating climate change and provide an important system for adaptation to climate change. The Climate Change Strategies for Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan emphasizes Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as a major means for Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. Opportunities for payment for mitigation of the effects of climate change through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and more recently, REDD+ have emerged on the international scene. The product traded is carbon. IGAD Member States can greatly benefit through these opportunities in terms of generating income for the forest owners. The role of forests to climate change mitigation and resilience building is very crucial. It is widely known forests and trees biomass can potentially sequester GHG.

### **1.5.6. Contribution to construction and wood industry sector**

Forests and trees are an important source of construction materials in the region by providing timber, poles, ropes, and other construction materials. Timber contributes greatly to the construction, furniture making and other manufacturing and/industrial sectors. In the rural areas of IGAD Member States, over 95% of dwelling units use timber or poles (with iron sheets or grass-thatch) as a component for roofing. Rural people also collect bamboo for use as building material and its shoots for consumption (Forestry Research Institute, 2000). Houses in some rural areas are constructed using bamboo, with roofs, wall partitions, panelling, mats, ladders, blinds and furniture. Bamboo is also used in the production of certain fishing tools, paper, and is sometimes used to make musical instruments such as flute and the guitar.

### **1.5.7 Contribution to energy**

Biomass is the dominant energy resource for households, and small & medium scale industries such as lime, brick and tile making and a number of agro-based industries. About 70 to 92% of energy needs are met from woody biomass.

### **1.5.8 Contribution to sustainable development goals (SDGs)**

Forests play a direct or indirect role in most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their multiple social, economic and environmental functions such as: i) eradication of poverty and hunger by providing food, shelter and energy in addition to ensuring forest-based employment and developing small industries and ii) ensuring environmental sustainability (mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, conserving clean water resources, combating erosion, protecting

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agricultural soils, sustaining productivity, protecting coastal and marine resources, providing renewable and low-cost energy, and safeguarding the urban environment).

## 1.6 CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES DRIVING FOREST DECLINE

The IGAD member countries are covered with important forest resources. These ecosystems play an important role by providing ecosystem services, food and subsistence and contribute in the national economies. But, it clearly appears that in the entire IGAD Member States, forests and woodlands are faced with continuously declining trends. In the past decades, there has been a huge decline in forest cover in the IGAD region. The area under closed forest in Djibouti has declined from 7,500 ha two centuries ago to 2,300 ha in 1947 and to 900 ha currently<sup>4</sup>. Forest in Ethiopia, one of the top 25 biodiversity-rich countries in the world (WCMC, 1994) and hosts two of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, namely the Eastern Afro-montane and the Horn of Africa hotspots is also under constant and severe threat, from mostly anthropogenic factors. The most affected forest trees species include *combretum terminalia*, moist afro-montane and *acacia commiphora* (MEFCC 2016). Between 1990 and 2005, Kenya lost 5.0% of its forest cover, or around 186,000 hectares, while South Sudan lost over 186,459 ha of forest period between 2000-2014 (Global Forest Watch (GFW, 2015). The greatest loss is in Uganda where an estimated forest cover of 10.8 million ha (45% of total land area) recorded in 1898, (Hamilton, 1984) shrunk to 24% of the area in 1990 to 9% in 2015 (NFA, 2015; MWE, 2016).

Over the years, forests and woodland areas have been subjected to various impacts and pressures that have threatened their existence and their ability to contribute to the regions socio-economic development and the maintenance of the environment. In the IGAD region, forests and trees have experienced continuous degradation due to:

- Increasing urbanization and settlement patterns;
- Deforestation as a result of unsustainable use of forests as well as continuous drought, regular seasonal migration and conflict, increasing demands for ecosystem services, increasing climatic variability and limited resilience systems;
- Encroachment for expansion of agricultural activities and settlements;
- Limited involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the current systems and methodologies for conservation and sustainable management of forests and other natural resources;

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<sup>4</sup> Djibouti's National Report on Forestry 2018

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- Overstocking of livestock in scarcity of pasture and grazing areas;
  - Unsustainable farming practices;
  - Increasing demands of the growing population for fuelwood, charcoal and timber and illegal forest product marketing;
  - Weak support on forest and natural resources sectors;
  - Climate change that threatens the types and condition of forests; and
  - Forest fires (natural and man-made initiated mostly from honey harvesting)

A number of factors that underlie forest decline in the region include:

- Policy deficiencies relating to the private sector and local communities over land tenure, access rights and responsibilities for resource management.
- Institutional instability. In some of the IGAD Member States, the Forest Department often changes hosting Ministries and top leadership, thus hampering continuity.
- Market failures, including inappropriate royalty rates, poor market information, trade restrictions and hidden subsidies that distort the markets for forest products.
- Poor regulation by weakened institutions which lack funding and capacity.
- Population growth and migration has increased demand for agricultural land and firewood energy, and
- Rural poverty that encourages illegal use of forest products and restricts the ability to invest in sustainable land use practices.

## **1.7 PARTICIPATION OF IGAD MEMBER STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY POLICY ARENA**

The eight IGAD member countries (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) are parties to international policies and instruments related to sustainable forest management. They have committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and they are parties to the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention and Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its related protocols. They have also committed to the United Nations non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, the New York Declaration (2014) on forests and to the Global Forests Goals (GFG). In this line, the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy must take into consideration the main objectives of the international Forestry Policy which are, among others, to:

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- Maintain and increase forest cover by reversing the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation;
  - Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;
  - Increase the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests;
  - Promote sustainable investment, industry and trade;
  - Increase the financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management; Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management;
  - Support community and private sector participation and participatory forest management;
  - Strengthen research, education, training, scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships;
  - Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders;
  - Promote forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) and forest certification.

These objectives can be achieved only if we have a clear knowledge of the state of the forests in the IGAD member countries.

## **1.8 JUSTIFICATION AND RATIONALE**

In recognition of challenges facing the forest sector, IGAD Member States noted that, forest governance and management in the region have not resulted in significant improvement in conservation or reversing the trend of deforestation and forests degradation in the region.

The IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy will address these challenges. The policy will complement the existing national policies, sub regional, and IGAD frameworks such as the IGAD Regional Environment Policy, IGAD Regional Environmental Impact Assessment Policy Framework and Protocol, the IGAD Regional Climate Change Policy, the IGAD Regional Environmental and Resources Management Strategy; IGAD Regional Water Resource Policy, and many international and regional policies and frameworks and The African Union Sustainable Forest Management Framework for Africa (2020-2030). There are also treaties and conventions

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that have been adopted and ratified not only by IGAD as an institution, but also by its Member States.

Recognizing the value and importance of forests for society and establishing sound policies to ensure this value is protected, maintained, enhanced and sustained is critical. It is in this context that forest management issues calls for renewed attention and commitments from Member States ensuring involvement and participation from all stakeholders.

This policy provides opportunities for IGAD Member States to assess and review their national forest policies and strategies, enhancing implementation capacities and sustainable management of the national and trans-boundary forest resources. The outcomes of the overall project will enable Member States harmonize and aligning national efforts in addressing major challenges outlined above including deforestation and land degradation.

Furthermore, major shifts have occurred in response to broader developments such as economic and population growth, globalization and infrastructure development as well as policy alterations. These changes vary amongst Member States in that in some cases forest-related policy has been a major driver of change while in others policy implementation has been weak. The role of Forestry Policy and the need for an iterative policy process and supportive governance frameworks are often overlooked but are essential if Forestry Policy is to be effective.

The pressure on forests is on increase as the population and the demand for wood products increased leading to forest degradation and deforestation and influencing climate negatively. Climate change has been recognized as a global issue requiring urgent attention that would involve developing realistic and relevant strategies and policies for sustainable forest resource management that will reverse changes in climate for socio economic development of the people of the region.

According to the 2017 IGAD Regional Biodiversity Policy and Protocol, the rate of urbanization in the IGAD region is extremely high “Some of the Capital of IGAD Member States belongs to the group of 100 fastest growing cities and urban areas in the world” (Section 3.4.4.). Due to weak and inadequate urban development planning, these issues are risk factors to biodiversity, leading to degradation of social and economic conditions in many cities of the IGAD region.

It is in this context that this policy provides opportunities for IGAD Member States to assess and review their national forest policies and strategies, enhancing implementation capacities and sustainable management of the national and trans-boundary forest resources.

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Despite the fact that IGAD has developed regional policies in many sectors related to agriculture and the environment, IGAD does not have a Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy. It is against this background, that in 2017, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) requested technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to provide support towards formulating a regional Forestry Policy and Strategy, as a framework to guide the development of the forestry sector within its Member States. FAO accepted the request and developed a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP/SFE/3605) on the Development of an IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy.

## **1.9 THE POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS**

The development of IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy followed the following process: An inception workshop organized by IGAD and FAO for Member States representatives, national consultants and key relevant forestry institutions to launch the process, discuss the background of the project, identify key issues and challenges in Forest, and agree on a roadmap to the development of IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy.

National consultants for each Member State carried out relevant information and data collection through desk reviews noting status of forest issues, gaps, opportunities and challenges in respective country; consultations and in-depth interviews were conducted with various Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the forest sector. National consultants prepared national forestry status reports that were shared and validated with all stakeholders at national and regional levels. The in-depth reports are background documents, which provided evidence of the level of consultation and detailed rationale for the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy.

Consultants translated these issues into policy and strategic level intervention; identifying issues that were of national interest and which could have a cross border dimension. Consultants with the assistance of IGAD focal points conducted national report validation workshops in each of the seven countries for ownership.

These reports from the National Forest Status Reports and workshop reports were used as background information and synthesized as regional background report on status of forest in the IGAD region putting views of different stakeholders in the forest sector.

An IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy was drafted by the international consultant to balance the priorities of different countries and taking into account the needs of all affected communities as well as gender differences, and regional commitments and strategies for forest sector development.

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A mini validation workshop was conducted in August 2019 led by IGAD and FAO with different stakeholders. The aim of this workshop was to review both the IGAD Regional Synthesis Report and the draft IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy.

Revisions were conducted and a wider stakeholder validation workshop of technical experts in forest to discuss and validate the final draft Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy was also held in November 2019.

Final technical meeting, followed by Ministerial level forum were also organized and the IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy endorsed.

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## CHAPTER 2

### THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 POLICY VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

**Vision:** IGAD region Forests are sustainably managed and their services are valued by all.

**Mission:** To halt deforestation and forest degradation and achieve the sustainable management of all types of forests and increase forest cover for the benefit of people of the IGAD region through enhanced cooperation, coordination and political commitment at all levels

#### 2.2 OVERALL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this policy is to develop and manage forest and tree resources and forest lands to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations.

Specific objectives are to:

- Improve forest governance including supportive policies, legislations and institutional frameworks for sustainable forest management in IGAD region.
- capacity development for sustainable forest management
- information generation, dissemination and knowledge management exchange of forestry information and best practices for Sustainable Forest Management
- Promote forest research and technology development
- Promote gender equity and the involvement of youth and vulnerable groups in Sustainable Forest Management.
- Protecting and establishing forests for its economic and ecosystem services including carbon stocks
- Enhance financing to support forestry sector development
- Enhance coordination, collaboration and partnership
- Management of transboundary forestry resource

#### 2.3 THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The IGAD region's Forestry Policy and Strategy covers the laws, institutions, systems, organizations and individuals and how they interact for the conservation and sustainable

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development of forest resources. It is also about the conservation of flora, and fauna and the provision of forest ecosystem goods and services.

The Policy recognizes the IGAD region Member States's Growth and Development agenda and international guidelines and conventions, to which the Member States are Parties and have ratified including the global conventions on forests, non-legal binding instruments on all types of forests and the regional treaties

The guiding principles of the Policy therefore incorporate the following:

- **Sustainable development:** The development of the IGAD region Forestry Policy must ensure that forests are managed sustainably, to yield sustainable streams of social, economic and ecological goods and services for current and future generations.
- **Valuation of resources:** The IGAD Forestry Policy must ensure that forest resources in the IGAD member countries are properly valued in terms of wood, non-wood products and ecosystem services. This economic evaluation should clearly be shown in the annual budgets of Member States
- **Livelihoods enhancement:** The policy recognizes the improvement of livelihoods, fighting poverty and protecting vulnerable and marginalized groups including women and youth that depend on forests for their livelihoods.
- **Inclusive Stakeholders engagement:** The policy acknowledges increased public awareness, participation and partnership involving government, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders.
- **Gender and equity:** The policy will ensure that actions redressing gender inequality and disadvantaged groups are integrated and mainstreamed in all forest management plans.
- **Inter-sectoral collaboration:** The policy recognizes inter-sectorial linkages as well as agreements with relevant sectors such as agriculture, environment, water, energy, mining and land.
- **Regional and international co-operation:** This policy has taken note of forest related international and regional conventions, agreements and protocols.
- **Subsidiarity:** The regional Forestry Policy will be implemented at the lowest competent authorities at national level complemented with regional efforts. At Member States level, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other regional instruments will be

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domesticated and implemented in line with their own national policies, strategies, laws and regulations for sustainable forest management.

- **Governance and Law enforcement:** Promoting and strengthening good governance in the forest sector will be critical in the implementation of Forestry Policy. Key elements of good governance will include: the rule of law, effective institutions, and access to information, transparency and accountability, professional ethics, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and the meaningful participation of citizens.
- **Research, Education and Knowledge:** Key decisions on forest management and conservation will be informed by forestry science founded on appropriate knowledge derived from research, professionalism and international best practice. The integration of traditional and scientific knowledge will promote sustainable forest management. The indigenous knowledge including intellectual property rights embodied in forest biodiversity and genetic resources will be harnessed and protected.
- **Private sector Involvement:** The private sector is expected to play a dominant role in forest management and forest products processing while the public sector role will focus on regulatory function, research and quality assurance.
- **Capacity building:** This policy will require a strengthening of financial, human and technical capacity amongst all relevant stakeholders and institutions for effective implementation.
- **Resource mobilization:** Securing sustainable funding for the forest Sector.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementation of this policy will require continuous monitoring and evaluation. Progress will be reviewed periodically, ensuring consultation with all relevant stakeholders.
- **Regional commitment:** Commitment from IGAD Member States to implement reforms is a key pre-requisite for the success of any new Forestry Policy.

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## CHAPTER 3

### PRIORITY ISSUES AND POLICY COMMITMENTS

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#### 3.1 GOVERNANCE, POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

**3.1.1 Policy Statement:** IGAD and its Member States shall promote forest governance including supportive policies, legislations and institutional frameworks for sustainable forest management.

##### 3.1.2 Policy drivers

Despite the major efforts made, IGAD and its Member States are still having difficulties in mainstreaming policies and legislations in a regional, national and cross-sectoral approach at all levels. This is mainly because of the lack of commitment of Member States to mainstream regional policies and strategies in most of IGAD countries, which resulted in limited coordination and harmonization of forest policies with other relevant sectoral policies such as agriculture, land, food security, water, wildlife and tourism. The national policies are poorly integrated in the legislation. There is also limited promotion of gender sensitive forest ownership and access rights for local and vulnerable groups as well as lack of effective mechanisms for land tenure reforms across the region. The issues of unequal benefit sharing mechanisms, weak institutions and governance are major areas of concern in the region. Furthermore, some policies and legislation across Member States are not in harmony.

#### 3.2. AFFORESTATION/REFORESTATION AND REDUCING DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION

**3.2.1 Policy statement:** IGAD and its Member States shall promote the implementation of sustainable management of transboundary and all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, conserve forest ecosystems and substantially increase a forestation and reforestation in the IGAD region

##### 3.2.2 Policy drivers

Forest ecosystems in IGAD region are subject to the adverse consequences of inappropriate production systems through poor forest exploitation methods, overgrazing and illicit grazing and the uncontrolled development of agricultural occupations in forests. All this is exacerbated by the effects of climate change and the insufficient scientific and technical support to activities in the rural sector. Moreover, the legislative and regulatory framework is lagging behind in most countries, leading to an insufficient enhancement of forests potentialities. The difficulties in mobilizing financial means are also a major constraint. Others include;

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- Rapid population growth exerting pressure on forest resources
  - Unaffordable alternative sources of energy
  - Conversion of forest land into agriculture land and other development encroachments
  - Lack of land use planning
  - Increased deforestation, forest degradation and loss of biodiversity
  - Challenges to forest health such as those posed by fire, pest and diseases, invasive species, overexploitation of wood and non-wood forest products, poor harvesting practices, poor management, overgrazing, air pollution, water stress and extreme climate events.
  - Increased land degradation and desertification, especially in ASALs of the IGAD region
  - Weak climate change adaptation and mitigation measures

### **3.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT**

**3.3.1 Policy statement:** IGAD and its Member States shall enhance the contribution of forest to socio economic development and their access by households, small and large scale forest owners and forest dependent local and vulnerable communities to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from Sustainable Forest Management Actions.

#### **3.3.2 Policy drivers**

Forest is an invaluable asset to the IGAD region as evidenced by its contributions to the livelihoods of the millions of people. In spite of their value, it is worth noting that forest products are not sufficiently developed and that little information is available on them. However, their contribution can prove very important since they are directly used by households for food, construction, medicinal, artisanal, energy purposes and therefore generate regular monetary income which confirms their socio-economic relevance.

The potentialities in terms of forest and wildlife resources in the region are very poorly recognized and valued: very few countries carry out the primary processing of their timber before exporting it. The situation is similar for non-wood forest products. Wood and Non-wood Forest Products have been subjected to a traffic that is unprofitable for local communities in trans-boundary sites. The insufficiency or even lack of exchange on best practices is an impediment to the development of potentialities in order to identify and develop ecotourism sites. Others include;

- High informality and illegality
- High transboundary commerce, including illegal

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- Heavy dependence on forest for fuel and wood
  - Meeting high demand for wood and non-wood forest products
  - Underestimation of forest contribution in wealth creation, employment and poverty reduction
  - Unequal forest benefit sharing
  - Lack of effective mechanisms for instituting tenure reform and for participation of indigenous people and local communities in forest ownership and management
  - Unethical trade practices associated with lack of product standards for forest products and limited market information.
  - Informal forest production which is dispersed, uncoordinated and rarely in national plans and which receives minimal investment support or other forms of assistance.
  - Lack of cross-sectoral collaboration and mainstreaming of sustainable practices in other economic and production sectors such as agriculture, putting the forest health and integrity of forest resources at risk; and
  - Uncoordinated use and sustainable management of transboundary forest resources.
  - Insufficient cross-border collaboration for monitoring and control of trade.

### **3.4 AWARENESS CREATION, COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

**3.4.1 Policy statement:** IGAD and its Members States shall increase knowledge and awareness in the public and among the stakeholders about the vital ecological functions and important social, cultural and economic benefits of sustainable forest management.

#### **3.4.2 Policy drivers**

Sustainable resource management requires a good knowledge of the qualitative and quantitative potential of forest resources in the region. Some of the issues include lack of regular assessment and monitoring of forest resources for effective planning and management; and poor data storage, access and sharing at all levels of forest planning, management and monitoring. Therefore there is a need to identify accurate information for each member state on: the surface areas covered by forest formation and protected areas, the social and economic value, the challenges faced, the wood volume, the existing animal and plant species, the annual possibilities and annual samplings.

The comparison of successive inventories should enable to establish Red Lists of endangered or threatened species or abnormally proliferative species. On the basis of this information,

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development methods and techniques are defined and applied. All this information should be available in databases at regional level in order to facilitate the identification and implementation of aids in terms of research and development. Other information such as the tourism potentialities and non-wood forest products can also be registered during these inventories and serve the Member States.

### **3.5 EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

**3.5.1 Policy statement:** IGAD and its Members States shall develop and strengthen a multidisciplinary forest research, technology development and education system that prioritize on SFM to meet economic, social and environmental challenges.

#### **3.5.2 Policy drivers**

The lack of knowledge on the actual potential of forest and wildlife resources in the IGAD region and the significant threats that loom over the region represented by climate changes, plant diseases, pests, fuel wood, and diseases, are major concerns. Current research institutions are not sufficiently equipped to overcome the new environmental challenges facing the region. Moreover, research and technology development efforts are largely insufficient as compared to increasingly numerous and pressing needs. Some of the issues common in the region include lack of proper training and capacity building in forest sciences and technologies; limited professional and technical capacity; declining technical forestry training institutions and education standards; lack of technical capacity for forest inventory, management, use, control and monitoring and finally the ageing staff in the sector. In general, supporting forestry education is very critical to be highly considered. Especially, wood technology, forest industry, forest protection, forest economics and Forestry Policy are important field of studies to have more professional at member countries. This will enhance the economic benefit of forestry both for member countries and for forest owners as well.

Therefore, there is a need to develop innovative strategies by boosting scientific cooperation and technology transfer through, if necessary, networked research with the pooling of human and financial resources on themes of regional relevance. Significant weaknesses can be noted in the area of technology transfer and enhancement of research findings. Effective youth engagement on forest issues also remains limited.

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## **3.6 GENDER AND EQUITY**

**3.6.1 Policy statement:** IGAD and its Members States shall promote gender equity and the involvement of youth and vulnerable groups in sustainable forest management.

### **3.6.2 Policy drivers**

Despite women making significant contributions in forestry, they lack proper involvement and representation in the sector. Women also have very limited access and control over forest resources, land, technology, financial resources, training, and information. They also lack awareness of their rights.

## **3.7 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

**3.7.1 Policy statement:** IGAD and its Members States shall promotes resource mobilization from domestic, regional and global mechanisms, partners and innovative sources

### **3.7.2 Policy drivers**

Sustainable forest management and conservation requires adequate financial resources. In most of the Member States, funding of forest activities though mainly from the government and development partners are limited in time and amount. This is mainly due to inadequate mechanisms for raising domestic, regional and global mechanisms and other innovative sources of funds. Forest development is an investment involving the establishment of trees, conservation and protection of forest ecosystems over long periods. This requires long-term funding.

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## **CHAPTER 4**

### **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

#### **4.1 STRATEGIC GOAL**

The overall goal of this strategy is to sustainably manage forests, tree resources and forest lands to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations.

#### **4.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

The strategic objectives include:

- Strengthen political commitment of member states on the IGAD Forest Policy and sustainable forest management (lobbying, awareness creation, visualization of the economic, social and environmental contributions of forests)
- Facilitation and promotion of the implementation of the policy through (resource mobilization, mobilization of technical and scientific expertise, partnership building, in particular through South-North and South-South cooperation)
- Establish and provide a coordination platform for continued policy development and dialogue to foster a common understanding of sustainable forest management through establishing forestry unit within IGAD Secretariat
- Promote cooperation among the member states and the international communities.
- Monitor and assess the progress of policy implementation.
- Promote forest research and technology development
- Establish a system for generation, dissemination, exchange and management of forestry information and best practices for sustainable forest management
- Promote sustainable forests development and conservation for their economic and ecosystem services including carbon stocks
- Strengthen resource mobilization to support sustainable forestry development
- Promote gender equity and the involvement of youth and vulnerable groups in Sustainable Forest Management.
- Develop capacity at strategic and operational level to ensure sustainable forestry development and conservation
- Promote management of transboundary forest resources

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#### **4.2.1 GOVERNANCE, POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS**

The IGAD region Member States have made great progress in the development of forest policies and the associated legislations. Each member state has legal, policy and institutional framework on forest resource management that has been gradually updated based on the political and socio-economic context. In most of IGAD countries, there is limited coordination and harmonization of forest policies with other relevant sectoral policies such as agriculture, rangelands, land, food security, water, wildlife and tourism. Furthermore, while forest policies exist at member state level, at IGAD regional level, policies related to natural environment and climate change are in existence but none for forestry despite the importance.

**Strategic Direction: IGAD and** member states shall strengthen and harmonize forest governance, policies and legislations to enhance the sustainable management of forests for their social, cultural and economic and environmental services

##### **Strategic actions**

- IGAD shall put in place appropriate mechanism to enhance good forest governance, in particular transboundary forest governance in the region
- Member States shall put in place governance process and institutions that strengthen cooperation and coordination and best engage relevant stakeholders to contribute to Sustainable Forest Management
- IGAD shall support its Member States to review and harmonize forest and other related sectoral policies, regulations and approaches in managing and use of forestry and woodland resources, including enforcement of laws and regulations for Sustainable Forest Management
- Member States shall develop frameworks on access to forest resources and benefit sharing by all stakeholders.
- Member States shall empower their institutions including forest management authorities, law enforcement agencies, private sector and civil societies to effectively monitor and enforce compliance for improved Sustainable Forest Management.
- Member States shall ensure integration and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other regional instruments and protocols into forestry programs, strategies and national development plans.
- Member States and other stakeholders shall build capacities of local communities for sustainable forest management at national and local levels; and

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- Member States shall mainstream the Regional IGAD Forestry Policy and Strategy into their National and Sectoral development Frameworks.

#### **4.2.2 AFFORESTATION/REFORESTATION AND REDUCING DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION**

Forests in IGAD region are subject to the adverse consequences of inappropriate production systems through poor forest exploitation methods, overgrazing and illicit grazing and the uncontrolled development of agricultural occupations in forests. All this is exacerbated by the effects of climate change and the insufficient scientific and technical support to activities in the rural sector. Moreover, the legislative and regulatory framework is lagging behind in most countries, leading to an insufficient enhancement of forests potentialities. The difficulties in mobilizing financial means are also a major constraint.

**Strategic direction: IGAD and its member states shall promote sustainable management of all types of forests including transboundary forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, conserve forest ecosystems and substantially increase forest cover in the IGAD region**

##### **Strategic actions**

- IGAD and its Member States shall ensure the implementation of Sustainable Forest Managements tools including development of plans.
- IGAD and its Member States shall ensure a landscape level approach to management that encompasses forest resilience, productivity, soil erosion, catchment management, agriculture, and rangelands which brings multiple sectors to work together at landscape level;
- IGAD and its Member States shall invest in forest biodiversity conservation and ecosystems services and values with a view to meeting international, regional and national goals;
- IGAD shall facilitate Member States to cooperate and collaborate in the development of appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that include ecosystem based adaptation (EbA<sup>5</sup>) and plans for trans-boundary forest biodiversity conservation,

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<sup>5</sup> EbA is defined by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as the “use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change as part of an overall adaptation strategy” (CBD 2009).

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- Member States shall promote the establishment of trans-boundary forest resource management agreements.
  - IGAD and its Member States shall cooperate in addressing issues related to invasive species, forest fires, pests and diseases to enhance sustainable forest management.
  - IGAD and its Member States promote alternative energy sources and enhance forest value chain development.
  - IGAD and its Member States shall encourage innovative implementation modalities to protect forests on highlands, mountains and catchments that contribute to the transboundary river basins
  - IGAD and its Member States shall promote integrated sustainable forest and range management modalities to combat desertification and drought resilience
  - Member States shall minimize agriculture expansion towards all types of forests and land
  - IGAD and its Member States shall promote sustainable forest products development, value addition and marketing
  - Member States shall develop and implement appropriate land use plan.

#### **4.2.3. ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL BENEFITS OF FORESTS**

Forests are an invaluable assets to the IGAD region as evidenced by its contributions to the livelihoods of the millions of people and to the national economies. In spite of their values, forest products are not sufficiently developed and there is limited information on their socio-economic and cultural benefits, implying the need to fully recognize the potentials of these resources in the region.

**Strategic direction:** IGAD and its Member States shall enhance the contribution of forest to socio economic development and their access by households, small and large scale forest owners and forest dependent local and vulnerable communities to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from Sustainable Forest Management Actions.

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This definition was later elaborated by the CBD to include “sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for local communities” (CBD 2010)

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## **Strategic actions**

- IGAD and its Members States shall enhance private/public partnerships (PPP) and effective participatory community involvement in forestry development
- IGAD and its Member States shall promote active participation of stakeholders at all levels in Sustainable Forest Management to ensure ownership and proper benefit sharing.
- IGAD and its Members States shall enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;
- IGAD and its Member States shall provide for policy (tenure) or fiscal incentives for encouraging and supporting private sector to increase their investment in forestry sector.
- IGAD and its Member States shall support the harmonization of marketing and trade policies related to forest products including illegal trade.
- IGAD and its Member States shall manage natural forests for the protection of the range of other conservation values, such as wilderness and heritage values, cultural significance, landscape and aesthetic attributes.
- IGAD and its Member States shall support the development forest products processing (and thus high value-added) within region's countries.
- IGAD and Member States shall reduce and control informal practices on forest resources.

### **4.2.4 AWARENESS CREATION, COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

Sustainable resource management requires awareness creation and knowledge related to the potential benefits of forest resources in the region. There is a need for information on forest data and to communicate valuable information related to forests to end users.

#### **Strategic direction:**

IGAD and its Members States shall increase knowledge and awareness among the stakeholders about the social, cultural and economic and ecological benefits of sustainable forest management.

#### **Strategic actions**

- IGAD and its Member States shall create awareness and advocate for forest contribution to green economy; resilient landscapes for food security and nutrition; energy and peace stability in the IGAD region.
- Mainstream sustainable forest management in education curricula at national and regional level.

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- IGAD and its Member States shall promote forest information generation, dissemination and exchanges among Member States to enhance sustainable forest management.
  - IGAD and its Member States shall promote public education and awareness of forestry issues and an appreciation for the sustainable management of forestry resources and the role of the regional forest in the mitigating the effects of climate change.
  - IGAD and its Member States shall develop an effective communication strategy for the regional initiative to reach out to different stakeholder groups, using professional marketing support as well as appropriate media and language.
  - IGAD and its Member States shall facilitate the exchange of forest data/information, experience and best practices on SFM among the Member States
  - IGAD and its Member States shall establish regional network of forest stakeholders and research institutions to exchange best practices and information
  - Provide advisory services through a dynamic forestry extension service to promote social acceptance of forestry.

#### **4.2.5 EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

The lack of knowledge on the actual potential of forest resources in the IGAD region and the significant threats presented by climate change, diseases and pests are major concerns of sustainable forest management. Current research and educational institutions are not sufficiently equipped with the necessary facilities, curricular and human resources to address the emerging environmental challenges facing the forest sector of the region. There is still limited technologies that support to withstand these emerging challenges. Therefore, there is a need to develop appropriate technologies and establish effective education system.

**Strategic direction:** IGAD and its Members States shall develop and strengthen a multidisciplinary forest research, technology development and education system that support sustainable forest management to address economic, social and environmental challenges.

##### **Strategic actions**

- IGAD and its Member States shall promote appropriate research, technologies and innovation into all aspects of forestry and forest-related activities and on their physical, biological, ecological, economic, social, cultural and other impacts.
- IGAD and its Member States shall promote appropriate research and technologies that targets the requirements of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and REDD+.

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- IGAD and its Member States shall promote training and education in forestry and forestry-related disciplines at all levels including at preprimary school i.e. for kids and for all types of forestry activities to ensure that education is addressing the real forest and wildlife problems in the region.
  - IGAD and its Member States shall promote linkages among the different stakeholders (private, public, industry, community etc) to enhance forest research, technology and extension services
  - IGAD and its Member States shall promote capacity building for forestry research institutions and collaboration/cooperation in joint forest research and development of forest technologies.
  - IGAD and its Member States shall promote the use of modern and innovative technologies for supporting SFM in the region (e.g. Remote Sensing, GIS, IT, etc).
  - IGAD and its Member States shall update forest information database to monitor sustainable forest management
  - Promote regional and cross-sectoral institutional collaboration to generate and share information to improve forestry policies, technologies and knowledge.

#### **4.2.6. GENDER AND EQUITY**

Despite women making significant contributions in forestry, they lack proper involvement and representation in the sector. Women also have very limited access and control over forest resources, land, technology, financial resources, training, and information. They also lack awareness of their rights.

**Strategic direction:** IGAD and its Members States shall promote gender equity and the involvement of youth and vulnerable groups in sustainable forest management.

##### **Strategic actions**

- IGAD and its Member States shall mainstream gender and youth sensitive approach at all levels of forest management, development and implementation.
- IGAD and its Member States shall support the capacity development of women, youth and the vulnerable for active their participation and benefits sharing from forest development.
- IGAD and its Member States shall empower women, youth and other vulnerable groups to enhance their participation on political and decision making at all levels and promote equal access to and control of forest resources.

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- Member States shall review their land tenure regimes with a view to strengthen women's rights over land and forest resources and benefit sharing mechanisms.
  - Strengthen the IGAD secretariat and Member States to effectively and efficiently coordinate the gender mainstreaming processes in the forest sector development

#### **4.2.7 RESOURCES MOBILIZATION**

Forest development and conservation requires adequate financial resources. So far most forest investments in the IGAD Member States are based on the funding from the government budgets. Hence, it is important to mobilize additional funding from domestic, regional and global mechanisms and other sources of funds.

**Strategic Direction:** IGAD and member states shall mobilize additional funding from different sources.

##### **Strategic Actions**

- Provide adequate funds for the development, management and conservation of forests through annual budgetary allocations.
- Explore and adopt alternative innovative sources of funding to complement public funding.
- Contribute financial resources for the Forest Management and Conservation Trust Fund.
- Mobilize resources from multilateral development agencies, development partners, private sector, and foundations to support forestry development.
- Promote investments in the forest sector by providing appropriate fiscal and economic incentives.
- Enhance resource mobilization strategies through carbon financing, payment for environmental services and other appropriate mechanisms.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY OF THE POLICY AND THE STRATEGY**

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IGAD Secretariat will be in charge of the development of the implementation plan of the Forestry Policy. The Implementation Plan will designate the roles and responsibility of all parties. The Implementation Plan will also include a set of performance indicators and measures to assess progress towards the effective conservation and management of forest resources in the IGAD Region.

The IGAD Regional Forestry Policy and Strategy will be implemented by IGAD Secretariat and the Member States institutions.

#### **5.1 THE ROLE OF ACTORS**

##### **5.1.1 ROLE OF IGAD SECRETARIAT**

It is clear that enhanced coordination will be critical for effective implementation of the IGAD Regional Forestry Policy through the Strategy. This calls for establishment of a strong coordination unit within IGAD Secretariat.

The IGAD Secretariat will have the role of facilitating, coordinating and harmonizing forest policies, and strategies.

Expected activities will include:

- Coordination and mobilization of resources to facilitate implementation of the strategy.
- Development and harmonization of forest assessment, methodologies, guidelines and standards for sustainable forest management.
- Development and maintenance of a regional data base on status and trends in the IGAD region forest resources.
- Development of a forest products information system to facilitate trade and industrial development.
- Development of mechanisms to prevent illegal trade in forest products. .
- Facilitation of sharing of best practices in forestry

- Development of a regional programme for sustainable forest management to include integrated management of transboundary forests, capacity building and promotion of research in forestry.
- Establish Forestry Unit within IGAD Secretariat

### **5.1.2 ROLE OF MEMBER STATES**

Commitment from Member States is critical to the success of the implementation of the strategy to achieve sustainable forest management. IGAD Forestry Synthesis Status Report from Member States noted number of issues that need attention. These include:

- Forestry Policy status including strategies and legislation or law enactment,
- Linkages of Forestry Policy with related policies i.e. land, climate change, environmental, renewable energy, tourism and wildlife etc.
- Institutional forest capacity and governance
- Research and training on various aspects of forestry
- Advanced education and training on forest
- Commitment to Regional Treaties/Protocols and International Frameworks and Conventions
- Update information/data on forest issues including opportunities and challenges
- Education, communication and awareness creation
- National budget allocation, resources and funding for forest management

### **5.1.3 ROLE OF OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

The involvement and mobilization of various stakeholders at various levels (national and regional) will be critical for effective forest ecosystems management at regional level. This management will require sustainable synergy, coherence and the establishment of consultation and harmonization frameworks of intervention approaches and methods at various levels. It is in this context that management of forest ecosystems requires the creation of coordination structures or bodies in which stakeholders will be represented.

### **5.1.4 Public actors**

Member States will ensure participation in implementation of the forestry strategy from the public actors through existing political, administrative and technical institutions and structures.

In line with decentralization legislations in some of the countries in the region, local government will have a key role to play in the implementation of the IGAD Forestry Strategy.

Consultations with non-governmental actors will be critical in the implementation of the forestry plan. This will include civil society and non-governmental organizations (national and regional).

#### **5.1.5 Civil society and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

The civil society organizations will be represented by individuals and associations at national level (farmers' organizations, socio-professional organizations, economic interest groupings, etc.) and regional level, will have a key role to play for the public interest and in accordance with the legislations and regulations and the IGAD Civil Society Framework.

NGOs will have an important role to play depending on their area of expertise. Support from NGOs will be at national and regional levels. Possible areas of possible intervention may include training, information and sensitization.

#### **5.1.6 Private Sector**

Involvement of the private sector will be critical in sustainable forest management. These will include loggers, producers and manufacturers of other forest resources that can be enhanced and traded.

#### **5.1.7 Women and Youth**

Women are the main users of forest products and thus an important group among forest operator. It will therefore be critical to promote mechanisms, incentives and initiatives that could promote gender issues and women issues in particular. As discussed above, women's involvement adds value to forest socio cultural and economic forest management.

#### **5.1.8 Development Partners**

Development partners (including local and foreign development partners) role will include not only providing financing forest resources but also advisory support in the areas of techniques, organization and methodology in sustainable forest management. This will include International cooperation that will enable Member States to establish exchanges, links and partnerships between the countries on various forest management issues thus promoting

international cooperation, social equity, and solidarity and reducing inequalities between developing and developed countries.

## **5.2 Funding Mechanism**

IGAD will address issues related to the financing of the policy including external funding and monitoring and evaluation modalities in line with the IGAD M&E framework that will be developed to guide the implementation of the policy.

To implement the IGAD Implementation Plan, IGAD Member States need various resources including the region's own resources, contributions allocated by individual countries to joint programs aiming at forest Sustainable Forest Management.

IGAD Forestry Strategy will be also a tool for resource mobilization and facilitate in accessing various available funds. Thus, the process will explore all the possible sources of funding including internal and external, public and private.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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A monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be developed in line with IGAD overall M&E Framework, to guide the implementation of the policy. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanism will allow for the observation and assessment of progress made in implementing the Forestry Policy and Strategy.

The mechanism will enable;

- Monitoring evaluation aims at collecting, processing and analyzing information and data to assess the impact, effects and performance of the various activities of the programme
- The verification and technical delivery in compliance with the programme of activity adopted
- Propose efficient technical measures
- Identify the constrains, success and lessons and recommend readjustment of programmes
- Report on the progress made.

It is noteworthy that the monitoring-evaluation system proposed need to be based on the set objectives as guides for the management strategy and the implementation of activities. Thus, results will be guaranteed if performance is assessed continuously against the objectives, impact and performance indicators.

The implementation and operationalization of this M& E system will require the following set of conditions be met:

- Data and information availability of all the stakeholders (actors, beneficiaries, partners, etc.) involved in the management of forest ecosystems in the IGAD Member States
- Relevant indicators at the IGAD Member States taking consideration country variability;
- Existence and refinement of tools for data collection, structuring and storage (databases). The analysis and dissemination of data to be harmonized in all the IGAD Member States;
- Existence of political will implement monitor and evaluate results of forest sector management at each Member State;

- Capacity assessment of organizational, technical, material and logistic capacity building of structures and agents for the efficient operationalization of monitoring-evaluation at all levels;
- Periodic review of the mechanism for M &E adaptation to potential changes on the basis of efficiency, efficacy and relevance criteria.

It is in the above context that the M&E system proposed is recommended to:

- Build a reference situation based on strategic indicators informed every set year;
- Assess the overall performance of the implementation and operationalization plan of IGAD Member States in the forestry sector;
- Measure the effects and impact of policies, strategies, action plans and programmes being implemented and planned to be implemented by the IGAD region and by each member state;
- Review and assess the impact whilst recommending necessary corrective measures to redirect these policies, strategies and actions.

Therefore,

- Each Member State will develop an operational action plan to facilitate the implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the IGAD Region's forestry strategy;
- The monitoring-evaluation mechanism proposed involves all the stakeholders and covers all the intervention areas of the forestry sector whilst taking into consideration institutional and organizational capacities.



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